

BALLOU'S DOLLAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

VOL. XVI.—No. 6.

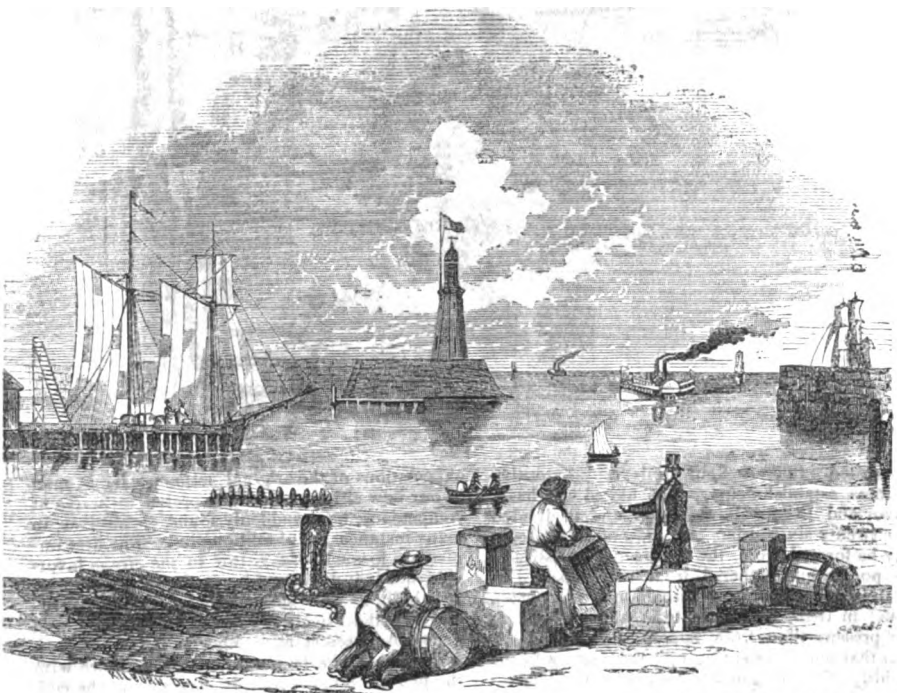
BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1862.

WHOLE No. 96.

VIEWS IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

We present our readers on the succeeding pages with a series of pictures drawn expressly for us, representing some of the most striking scenes and buildings in the flourishing city of Buffalo, N. Y. It is a city and port of entry, and the seat of justice for Erie county. Its situation is fine, being at the extremity of Lake Erie, two or three miles south of the commencement of Niagara River. It is 470 miles west of New York, and is situated in nearly the same latitude as Boston. It is planned with great regularity, and for the most part, handsomely built, as our illustrations show. Its surface is

somewhat diversified, part of it being quite elevated, and part low and marshy. The lower portion of the city, intersected in its southern part by Buffalo Creek, is chiefly devoted to business, and wears an appearance of great activity and prosperity. At a distance of about two miles from the shore, we find ourselves upon an elevated plain, which commands a very extensive view. Buffalo was originally laid out in 1801, by the Holland Company, but it grew slowly till 1812, when it became a military post. In December of the following year, it contained 200 houses, all but two of which were burnt by

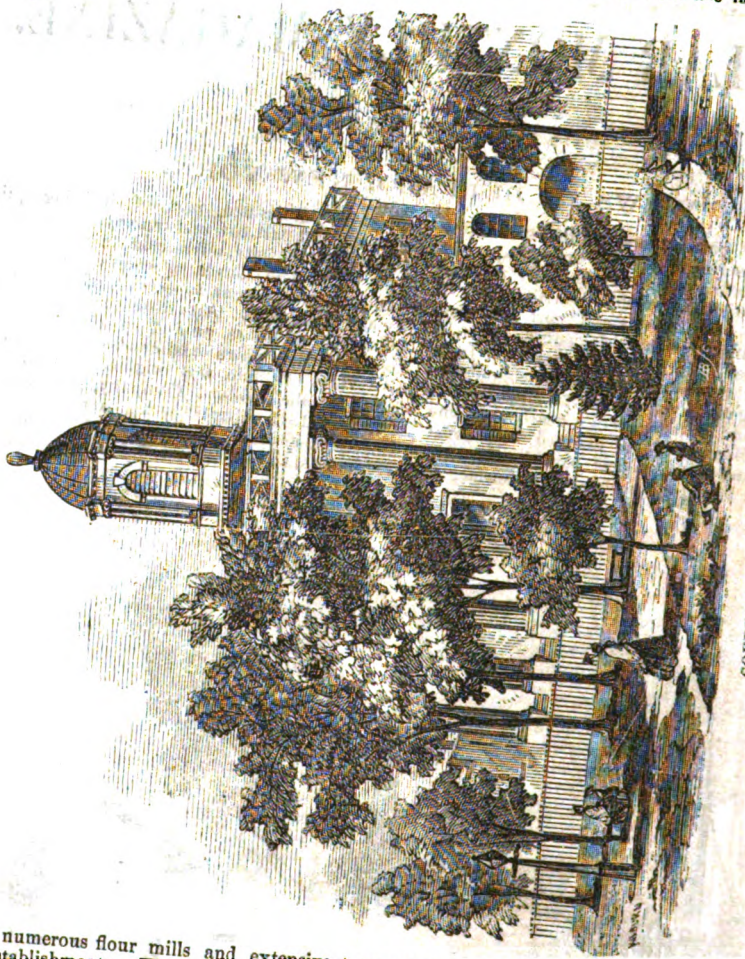


LIGHT HOUSE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

VIEWS IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

the British and Indians. In view of the condition to which the inhabitants were reduced by this destruction of their property, and as a partial compensation therefor, Congress granted them the sum of \$80,000. The legislature of the State in 1832 passed an act incorporating it a city. If 1852 it was incorporated with Black Rock by an act of the legislature, which received the popular sanction in 1853, and took effect January 1, 1854. The portion known as Black Rock is about two miles from Buffalo, and here

cities of the old world. Here all is feverish activity—there a quiet which is too often that of decay. This progress is not the result of a forced and artificial stimulus, however—it is based on resources inexhaustible as nature itself; and such are the shrewdness and foresight of our people, that we have very rare instances of "deserted villages," or of towns and cities which have failed to realize the anticipations of their founders. On the contrary, the rise in the value of real estate everywhere has far exceeded the



COURT HOUSE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

are located numerous flour mills and extensive business establishments. The united city has a mayor and twenty-six aldermen, and is divided into twenty-six wards. An idea of its increase may be formed from the following statistics of the population, gathered from the census. In 1810, it contained 1508 inhabitants; in 1820, 5095; in 1840, 18,213; in 1850, 42,261; and at the present time from 80,000 to 85,000. It is thus that our cities spring up; contrasting in the rapidity of their growth with the slow progress or absolute stagnation of most of the towns and

expectations of the original settlers. By it, men in our new cities who only expected to arrive at competency, have suddenly found themselves, in many instances, semi-millionaires. The first impression formed by a visitor to the city is favorable, nor is it dissipated by further acquaintance. It is built, as we remarked above, with great regularity; the streets are broad and straight, and generally intersect each other at right angles—a style, which, if it be not in strict accordance with the picturesque, is certainly necessary to the convenience of a city. Tortuous and narrow streets,

with lofty, irregular houses, afford fine points of view to an artist, but are not adapted to the requirements of business and comfort. One of our series of engravings is a view of the Niagara railroad depot, which is one of the largest in the State, and was built three years since at an expense of \$40,000. It extends four hundred feet along the canal, and has a frontage of one hundred and eight feet on Erie Street. The architecture of this depot is graceful and appropriate. A feature in it is the peculiar curve of

crowd of carts and wagons, buyers and sellers, in the streets surrounding it, reminds us of South Market Street in this city during the busiest part of the day. This market is admirably supplied with poultry, meat, fish and country produce of all kinds. It is one of the best supplied in the United States. The material of the building is brick. Our first engraving shows the light-house which stands on the end of the pier at Buffalo, a faithful and changeless sentinel. In the foreground of our picture are seen a merchant busy

RESIDENCE OF B. M. SHERWOOD, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

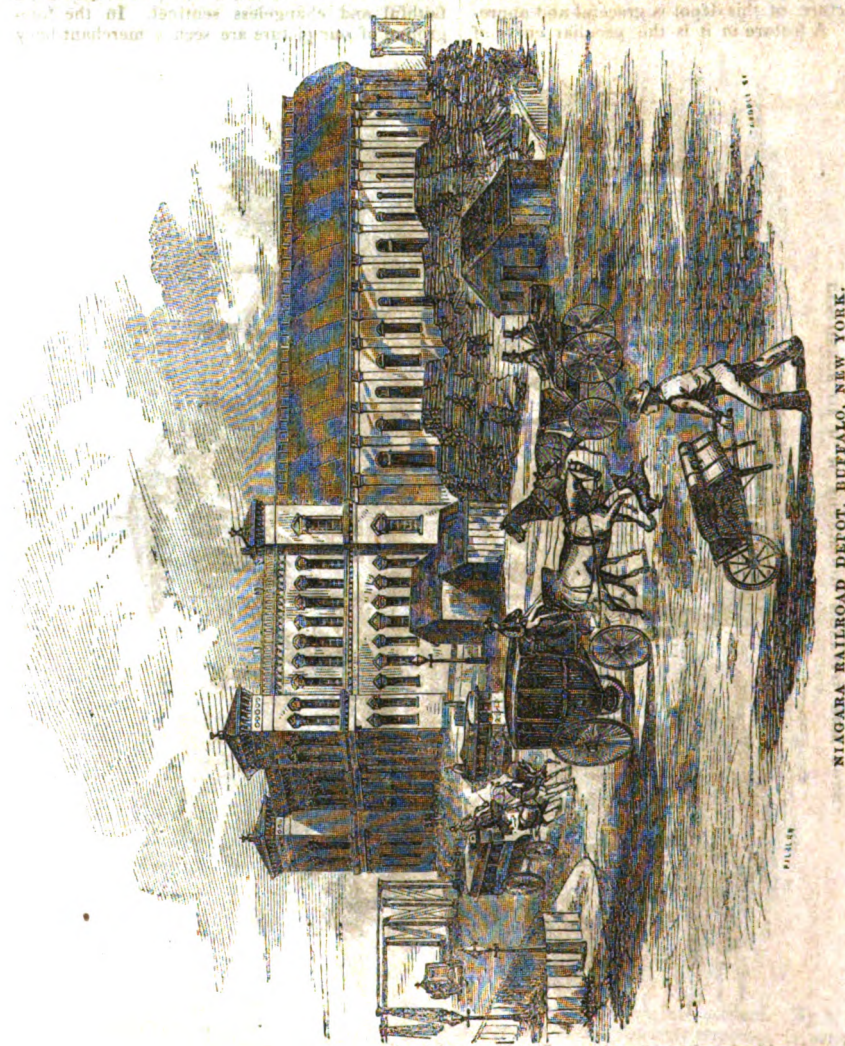


the roof, noticeable in the engraving. Just before the departure and arrival of trains, this locality presents a lively scene. Omnibuses, coaches, carts, pedestrians—are mixed up in seemingly inextricable confusion, but none such really exists, for the arrangements are admirable, and ample room and verge are afforded for the accommodation of all. The market-house is another fine building, accurately depicted in our last engraving. The architecture is partly Grecian, but it is surmounted by a tower and cupola of a different style of architecture. The

with his work people among his wares; a schooner lies at the wharf on the left, and more than one steamer is seen on the broad bosom of the lake, cutting their swift way through its waters. Our third engraving will give some idea of the style of the private dwelling-houses in the city. It stands not far from the court-house, and is built of light yellow brick. It is owned and occupied by Mr. Sherwood. The style is that of the Italian villa. The trees and shrubbery which surround it are chosen with reference to the architecture, and add effect to its

light and graceful character. The second view of the series is the court-house, as seen from the park, in the immediate rear of which it stands. The lofty colonnade in front and other architectural ornaments, impart to this building a pleasing effect. Among the other public buildings of the city, are a jail, a new city hall, and about forty churches, many of them of recent erection. The Catholic cathedral is a noble structure. St.

6000 volumes, which are rapidly increasing by purchase and donation. During the winter season, lectures are delivered before this society, and the liberality of the remuneration offered secures the services of the most distinguished lecturers in the country. A large number of Germans are settled in Buffalo, and among this part of the population a society has been organized with the title of the German Young Men's Association.



NIAGARA RAILROAD DEPOT, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

John's and St. Paul's Episcopal churches are fine buildings, and the North and Central churches are likewise noted for their architectural merit. Indeed, it would seem that Buffalo is taking a leading position among her sister cities of the North in the attention paid to architecture. Buffalo is the seat of a university, chartered in 1846, connected with which is a medical college, both institutions enjoying a high reputation. The Young Men's Association has a fine library of

They have already collected quite a respectable library, consisting chiefly of works in the German language, and bid fair to make great advances in mental culture. These two societies have reading-rooms well supplied with newspapers and periodicals, and the attendance is large. There is a fine female seminary, enjoying an unrivalled location, and having a fund of \$50,000. The city is noted for its liberality in the cause of education.

MARKET HOUSE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

